

# **Hank Bielawa**

## *Biography*

State Representative Hank Bielawa, R-Redding, was elected to his first term representing the 2nd District, which is comprised of sections of Bethel, Danbury and Redding, on November 5, 2002. He was sworn into office on January 8, 2003.

Bielawa serves as a member of the Legislature's Planning and Development Committee, Transportation Committee and Energy and Technology Committee.

Prior to his election as state representative, Bielawa had a lengthy record of public service. He served as Redding's First Selectman from 1989 to 1999. His tenure saw many much-needed upgrades to town facilities and services.

Bielawa facilitated the comprehensive project that brought sewers to Georgetown. The numerous upgrades to town facilities his administration oversaw include the replacement of an outdated train station, renovations to Town Hall and the Town Garage, and the closure of the town landfill, which was replaced with a premier recycling center. During this time, Redding also purchased the Granskog property to protect a key parcel of open space and built a salt/sand storage facility to house materials for treating local roads, which protects the environment from chemical runoff.

In addition, Bielawa initiated the drawing of detailed maps of Redding that note locally historic and archeologically sensitive sites, which are useful to land use boards planning for future development. He also oversaw the replacement of local bridges and fought the state Department of Transportation's attempt to install wide bridges on narrow roadways, for which the national magazine 'Governing' labeled him "the asphalt rebel."

Finally, his administration initiated the construction of a new community center and several new ballfields.

Rep. Bielawa also served on the Redding Board of Education for 11 years, including 2 as chairman. In addition, Bielawa's public service includes 30 years as a member of the West Redding Volunteer Fire Department. He has served as president, treasurer and auditor of the department. Also, Bielawa served as Chairman of the Redding School Building Committee and as a Little League Coach for the Redding Boy's Club

Bielawa served in the U.S. Marine Corps and is a life member of the Georgetown VFW Post 10190. He earned a B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts and an MBA from the University of Santa Clara. He held management positions in the electronics industry for 20 years.

He resides in Redding with his wife Claire. They have four children and six grandchildren.